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QUOTE

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SUBJECT: UN APARTHEID COMMITTEE: MISSION TO WASHINGTON

IN PRESS RELEASE DATED 25 JUNE 1975 (COPIES BEING POUCHED ADDRESSEES) ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF UN APARTHEID COMMITTEE MISSIONS TO GENEVA, SOUTH AMERICA, AND WASHINGTON, UN APARTHEID COMMITTEE MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ABOUT THE WASHINGTON VISIT:

QUOTE THE CHAIRMAN SAID THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH A DECISION TAKEN AT A PREVIOUS MEETING, HE HAD LED A MISSION TO WASHINGTON, D.C., FROM SUNDAY AFTERNOON, 22 JUNE, TO TUESDAY NIGHT, 24 JUNE, FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS. HE HAD BEEN ACCOMPANIED ON THE MISSION BY ABDIRIZAK HAJI HUSSEIN (SOMALIA) AND BY THE RAPPORTEUR, MR. VALDERRAMA.

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IN THE DISCUSSIONS WITH STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, HE SAID,

THE DELEGATIONS HAD TAKEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY THE COMMITTEE'S CONCERN FOR MORE EFFECTIVE AND CONCERTED INTERNATIONAL ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID. THE DELEGATION HAD STRESSED ITS DESIRE TO SEE STRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA AND AN END TO ALL MILITARY CO-OPERATION AND CONTACTS WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME.

YESTERDAY, THE DELEGATION HAD MET WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, HE WENT ON.

IN ALL THE MEETINGS, THERE HAD BEEN "VERY FRANK" EXCHANGES OF VIEWS ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND ON INTERNATIONAL ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID.

"I MUST CONFESS", SAID MR. OGBU, "THAT WE CAME AWAY WITH THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, WHILE REITERATING ITS OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID, FEELS THAT FURTHER ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID IS DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF SENTIMENT IN CONGRESS AND THE PUBLIC, RESULTING FROM DEVELOPMENTS ON OTHER ISSUES SUCH AS THE MIDDLE EAST.

"THE CONSULTATIONS IN CONGRESS HAVE CONVINCED US THAT THERE IS A GREAT AMOUNT OF GOODWILL. FOR INSTANCE, MANY CONGRESSMEN ARE NOW EXERTING SERIOUS EFFORTS TO REPEAL THE BYRD AMENDMENT WHICH PERMITS IMPORTS OF CHROME FROM SOUTHERN RHODESIA. THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE'S SUB-COMMITTEE ON AFRICA, HEADED BY SENATOR RICHARD CLARK OF IOWA, WILL SOON HOLD HEARINGS ON SOUTH AFRICA AND HOPES TO COME UP WITH PROPOSALS FOR CONCRETE ACTION TO ALIGN THE UNITED STATES WITH THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM."

MR. OGBU WENT ON TO SAY:

"A NUMBER OF CONGRESSMEN HAVE TOLD US THAT THE RELATIONS WITH INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES ARE MUCH MORE IMPORTANT TO THE UNITED STATES THAN THE PROFITABLE COLLABORATION OF SOME CORPORATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA. THEY WERE CONFIDENT THAT THIS WILL BE INCREASINGLY RECOGNIZED."

THERE WERE, HE SAID, "MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT RECENT DEVELOP-
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MENTS IN THE UNITED NATIONS", AND THE DELEGATION HAD BEEN ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THEM. IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT LITTLE HAD BEEN DONE TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY INFORMATION TO CONGRESS AND TO THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ATTITUDES OF THE GREAT MAJORITY OF MEMBER STATES.

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